

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL MEDICINE
BARNES AND WOHL HOSPITALS
600 SOUTH KINGSHIGHWAY
ST. LOUIS 10, MISSOURI

29 November 1960

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University
Palo Alto, California

Dear Josh:

As you may have learned from Arthur, I have been offered, and have accepted, the chair in microbiology at this school. The department has been vacant for so long that its rehabilitation poses an awesome challenge, and even though I have deep misgivings as to the committee's wisdom, and my own, in arriving at this decision I am now committed to establishing a new department - one which hopefully will be scientifically vigorous.

The first and most obvious goal is the accumulation of people. I begin this crucial first step by writing to you and to Arthur for help and suggestions. You doubtless realize that I would deeply appreciate any suggestions you might make regarding candidates for any of the 4 or 5 positions that will be available. Positions are available at all academic levels as the department is now entirely untenanted. I wonder in particular if you would care to make any comments regarding the suitability of Norton Zinder? I do not know him personally and know only in a general way of the work he did with you when he was your graduate student (I think).

I expect to attend the La Jolla meeting in January and hope you will find it possible to be there as I should welcome the chance to chat with you about the above and other problems.

With very best regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Herman'.

Herman N. Eisen

HNE:vb